

SUGAR and PLANTATION NEWS

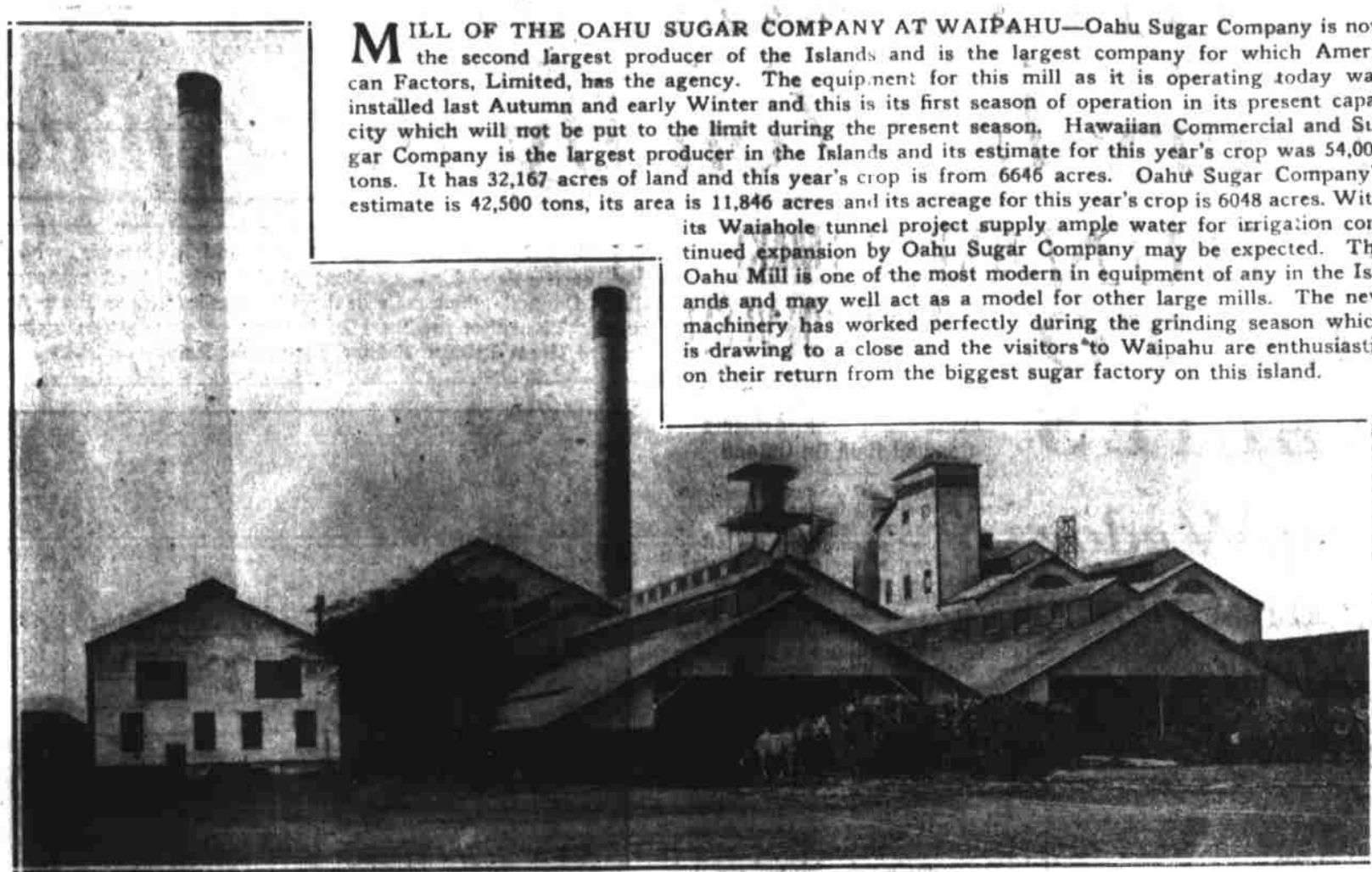
NEXT TWO CROPS WILL BE SMALLER THAN PRESENT ONE

Conditions Militate Against Full Production But Pessimism Is Unwarranted

TWO PROBLEMS BOTHER PLANTERS ESPECIALLY

Real Seriousness Remote and Would Be Felt in Two Years Unless Relief Comes

With an actual shortage of labor and another actual shortage of nitrates there prevails, naturally, in the sugar industry more or less pessimism as to possible and probable crops for the next three years. Actual figures to form estimates of these crops are missing and there is always the hope of changes in conditions. It must be admitted that there is ample ground for some pessimism and there are good reasons to believe that the next crop will be even smaller than this while the 1920 crop is likely to be still smaller unless conditions are speedily bettered. Drought, last year, destroyed or retarded the growth of much young cane and required a considerable amount of new planting which had to be done months after the usual planting time. This would militate for a smaller crop. To some extent this has been obviated by good rains, those for the past four



MILL OF THE OAHU SUGAR COMPANY AT WAIPAHU—Oahu Sugar Company is now the second largest producer of the Islands and is the largest company for which American Factors, Limited, has the agency. The equipment for this mill as it is operating today was installed last Autumn and early Winter and this is its first season of operation in its present capacity which will not be put to the limit during the present season. Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company is the largest producer in the Islands and its estimate for this year's crop was 54,000 tons. It has 32,167 acres of land and this year's crop is from 6646 acres. Oahu Sugar Company's estimate is 42,500 tons, its area is 11,846 acres and its acreage for this year's crop is 6048 acres. With its Waiahole tunnel project supply ample water for irrigation can be expected. The Oahu Mill is one of the most modern in equipment of any in the Islands and may well act as a model for other large mills. The new machinery has worked perfectly during the grinding season which is drawing to a close and the visitors to Waipahu are enthusiastic on their return from the biggest sugar factory on this island.

Soldiers Will Not Return To Fields After War

Objection To Oriental Labor As Competing With Discharged Soldiers Not Well Founded; Situation Critical

Among men prominent in the sugar industry, at least among some of them, there is a change in tone relative to the bringing in of Chinese labor. While a few months since they would give the proposal little consideration the calling of the guard and the calling of the draft has brought about conditions which have made them change their views. Most sugar men favor, or at least say they do, the continuance of the use of Filipino labor and the declared attitude of the Planters' labor bureau is against asking relief through legislation or the lifting of immigration laws. That policy would leave the Islands dependent on Filipino and Porto Rican labor and, admittedly, there is no transportation for these available unless the government can be prevailed upon to furnish it. More and more now, the seriousness of the labor shortage being recognized, attention turns to the securing of Oriental labor for which there are two plans.

Japanese Plan
One plan, suggested by the Japanese papers, is to "lift the gentlemen's agreement" sufficiently to permit the return of Japanese laborers who have been here, returned home and remained there too long to now come back to Hawaii under the "gentlemen's agreement." It is claimed they would be brought here without the expense of transportation falling on the sugar industry and that Japanese steamers are ready to transport such labor. This suggestion has won some friends. It is claimed there are 8000 of these and some sugar men are outspoken in welcoming the plan, the idea being get the labor from whatever source is possible. Hawaii needs labor and if these men can be secured in that way, the offer should be accepted if it can be, these men say. There are others, however, who are not inclined to welcome Japanese labor, apparently fearing labor agitation which has been unlikely among Filipinos.

Chinese Plan
The other plan is to secure Chinese labor, through law amendments or under the Overseas Act. There are a number of plantation men who personally favor this proposal. In the past few months the sentiment for this plan has grown enormously and it is not open to the same objections as is the Japanese plan.

Referring to criticism of the plan to bring in Oriental labor, that it would pauperize labor and the men who have been called into the army could not compete with it when they return to civilian life a well known sugar man said yesterday: "It is supposed for a moment that the Filipinos and Japanese laborers who have gone into the army are getting \$30 a month, their food and their clothing, will go back to plantation work when the war is over? "It seems to me hardly likely they would. They gladly left the plantations for the service and they will seek other work when the war ends."

Exercising on the mainland immigration has been looked to for the supply of unskilled labor, ditch diggers and similar workers. So here we have had to look to immigration for the unskilled plantation labor. Our experience has been similar to mainland experience with unskilled labor, that the workers will leave above it. So it was with the Chinese and so it has been and is growing more to be all the time with the Japanese. The Portuguese wanted and want to leave here.

Under the circumstances, since the labor obtainable after the war at home and on the mainland will be unwilling to work for what the sugar plantations are able to pay, it seems to me there is no objection to the bringing in of the requisite number of Orientals. It is not a case of competition but a case of getting labor or let the industry fail. You can not get labor from the Islands now and the situation will be no better when our army is mustered out.

"We have something of a patriotic duty to perform in raising sugar and we cannot fulfill that duty without labor. I am not particular where it comes from but I feel we ought to secure it."

It is admittedly difficult to secure legislation for the admission of Orientals and the committee that is working out plans will find strong opposition from the mainland, this being the opinion of officials and legislators at Washington.

Meanwhile the industry faces steadily reducing crops and is unable to heed the President's call to keep up production. No advice on the labor situation has been received from the Planters' committee since it left the Islands. On the other hand and would still leave the prices considerably under those prevailing in London, Paris and Rome. The sugar committee of the food administration has succeeded perfectly in stabilizing prices but is now counteracting by the necessity of keeping production up to the maximum and in this direction it has as yet done little. There has been objection to raising the retail price but Chairman Rolph of the sugar committee has admitted that steps to keep up production are now needed and has indicated for months past that a raise in wholesale and retail prices, following an increase in the prices for raw, was inevitable.

SHIPS IN PLENTY TAKE SUGAR WHEN IT IS NEEDED MOST

Departures This Month Give a Ration For Half of the People of Mainland

SHIPPING BOARD RISES TO MEET SITUATION

Indication Is That Next Season Supply Will Not Have To Lie In Storehouses

While only about 2500 tons of sugar have left the islands since Wednesday of last week this has not altered the indication that the present month will easily and far exceed any previous month in the sugar year and the shipper have been facing a reversal of the shipping situation for instead of a shortage of bottoms they have had a superabundance. Recently there were three vessels loading sugar at this point all at one point and there was at least one vessel in every sugar port in the Islands.

It was estimated early this week at the Sugar Factors Company that the shipments for the month would easily exceed 27,000 tons and might exceed 35,000. This takes away a large amount of the sugar on hand awaiting shipment, in fact at some ports the sugar is said to have been cleared up. It is indicated that there will be an abundance of bottoms next month as well as this so that October may see practically everything but the late grind on its way to the refineries.

Grind Is Late
While about ninety percent of the grind has now been completed the indications, coming from various plantations in the way of reports, is that some of the plantations will be very late in finishing production for the year and that most of them are somewhat behind. The reasons for this have been the fact that ships were so scarce there seemed to be no reason for hurrying the grind. A more recent reason, and one that still prevails, is the scarcity of labor.

Inquiry at the various agencies indicate that the last of the grind will be late and the same information was gathered by the Planters' labor bureau, that the grind will go into September and October for a longer number than usual of the plantations, even for some of the Maui companies which are usually among the first to end. Advice to the Sugar Factors company indicate that some mills may be running into November.

Hope For Next Crop
One of the encouraging features of the sudden relief for the shipping problem is the probability that there will be no repetition another year of the conditions that prevailed this year up to the present month. The shipping board, handicapped tremendously carried out the best program it was able for the first seven months of the year, the last two showing the beginning of the real speeding up. Indications are that for the next crop there will be available a constant stream of ships will move away sugar practically as fast as it is able to go.

This year has seen the speeding up of building of storage capacity and the storeroom has been taxed practically to the limit but has met needs so that there has been no waste of sugar. The delay in shipments has merely meant a delay in getting returns. This has not meant loss of sugar or waste. The companies adjusted their dividend plans accordingly and have waited patiently for the shipping board to accomplish just what it has brought about. On all sides the ship building program and the work of the shipping board is being commended and the industry is making the shipping board for the movement of Hawaiian sugar were stimulated by the shortage that now prevails on the mainland.

Supply Is Timely
What the movement means is better figured in pounds than in tons. Shipments for August will be somewhere between 150,000,000 and 175,000,000 which will furnish a month's three pound sugar ration for from 50,000,000 to 60,000,000 people, for say half of the total population of the mainland United States.

On the first of the month there remained to be moved about 122,000 tons and movements this month will take all but 40,000 of this at the lowest conservative figures. It is likely the grind for the month may reach between 35,000 and 40,000 tons which would make available for shipment in September about the same amount as August and if this be moved, as is expected, Hawaiian shipments in two months will have been a one month ration for every man, woman and child in the United States.

Thus for the mainland, coming in the midst of a period of careful conservation, the Hawaiian stock is most opportune and will go farther than had it moved with the regularity of past years.

SUGAR IN MEDICINE
The weekly bulletin of the Food Administration brings information on the matter of sugar substitutes for drugs. The English people have published a resume of 130 preparations in which sugar is used or then glycerine and the formulas have been approved by medical and national authorities and have become standards.

months having been from fifty to three hundred percent above the normal.

The early cultivation of that crop has not been affected by labor shortage though it is now feeling this and will continue to until it is harvested next winter and summer. Neither has that crop been in any important way affected by the shortage of nitrates. It may show some loss for lack of fertilizer later, however. Hence there will not be, judging from present indications, an alarming falling off in the 1919 crop. A lack of information on what labor can be hoped for is sure to make it difficult for the plantation managers to make preliminary estimates this year and it is to be expected that extreme conservatism will be shown in the first estimates, issued around December.

Falling Off Crop
It is the 1920 crop that will show the first really important effects of the nitrate shortage. Even this may not be so serious as has been feared all though the situation is discouraging. Most of the plantations had something of a supply of the fertilizer on hand, it is learned, and this they have used. From now on it will be different. Eleven hundred tons came in for the Hawaiian Fertilizer Company the first of the week but when more will come that company does not know and Norman Watkins, manager of the company, fears that the embargo that was put on for two months may be extended for six so as to meet the government's urgent needs for other for months. If this be the case, the 1920 crop will, from here on, have to do without further fertilizing.

Nitrate Shortage
It is estimated that the use of nitrates in quantities of 2000 tons a month once was the Hawaiian yield about one-third. This year the young cane has not had the full amount and will have less for the next few months, it is feared. If such be the case the crop may be expected to show some losses in growth which cannot be stimulated as usual.

How far the labor shortage has affected the average planter, it is not possible at this time to say. It is understood that some plantations have cut down on acreage but that this has not been general. There may, then, have been almost as large an acreage as usual planted but the reduction that has been made will make some difference in crop total. Even now the labor shortage will affect the crop, preventing proper weeding and cultivation. Thus the 1920 crop may lack adequate fertilization and will lack sufficient labor for its proper cultivation and may be expected, consequently, to fall behind the 1919 crop, how far behind the supply of labor secured must largely determine. Talk of a crop only half as large of that of a year is considered among sugar men as far too pessimistic.

Looking Far Ahead
There is every reason to hope that relief for the labor situation and the nitrate situation will have been secured before next spring and summer when the new crop is to be planted. There is where the real seriousness of the situation would reach a climax. With out labor and without fertilizer a greatly reduced acreage would be planted and only half a crop could be counted upon. But the lapse of six or eight months may completely change the conditions and, in this hope, the planters are waiting and watching.

The needs of the Islands are known in Washington. When nitrates can be spared Hawaii will get them and the ship shortage has been so relieved that the fertilizer companies look for no trouble in securing nitrates.

The government is also informed and will be still better informed on the need of labor and the planters are hoping for relief from that quarter.

CUBA'S RECORD PRODUCTION

Mills in Havana province:	Estimated production, in bags	Final output, in bags
Jobo	85,000	93,745
La Julia	200,000	191,000
Total	285,000	284,745
Mills in Matanzas province:		
Alaya	270,000	236,624
Conchita	290,000	243,233
Feliz	130,000	138,328
Mercedes	280,000	362,191
San Ignacio	75,000	99,300
Santa Gertrudis	183,513	183,513
Socorro	320,000	290,949
Total	1,650,000	1,693,650 + 2,600
Mills in Santa Clara province:		
Lequeto	160,000	153,450
Maria Victoria	115,000	122,787
Perseverancia	170,000	180,000
Total	445,000	456,237 + 2,500
Mills in Camaguey province:		
Lagunera	280,000	115,600
Sierra	400,000	416,000
Moron	375,000	315,439
Jaguajay	285,000	326,200
Total	1,340,000	1,173,239 - 1,800
Total total: Estimated production, 3,810,000 bags. Final output, 3,907,871 bags.		

Rainfall Is Ample Where Cane Last Year Was Killed

One year ago Hawaii was suffering seriously from drought and the dry spell had hit Maui, occasioning a great amount of damage to this year's crop of both Islands, with a consequent crop reduction for the Islands of about one-third. This year the weather conditions are in direct contrast and rainfalls for the past four months are far in excess of the normal, in some instances three times as great. Not only is the rainfall above normal on these islands but on all of the Islands of the group.

At Kahuku, for instance it is two and a half times normal, Waimea nearly fifty percent over, Ewa about three hundred percent and Waialeale nearly double.

Stations.	Districts.	Total last 4 months	Normal last 4 months
Island of Hawaii—			
Packard Ranch (8)	North Kohala	31.08	17.46
Kohala Mill (8)	North Kohala	49.12	20.57
Kohala Mission (9)	North Kohala	48.39	19.37
Niuli (8)	North Kohala	49.64	20.08
Honokaa (7)	Honokaa	72.09	21.66
Panauka (7)	Honokaa	63.41	20.10
Oakala (8)	North Hilo	101.10	36.60
Lanipahoehoe (8)	North Hilo	104.17	47.45
Honohua (7)	North Hilo	80.77	14.96
Island of Maui—			
Kaanapali (—)	Lahaina	6.89	4.20
Waikuku (8)	Waikuku	15.56	6.23
Hakua Exp. Station (8)	Makawao	44.31	—
Kaiaua (9)	Makawao	94.32	48.45

Generally the young cane has been or is being planted and the weather last week was reported as such that the young cane was making splendid progress.

COLLEGE OF HAWAII HELPS IN EMERGENCY

In order to meet an emergency situation and supply to the sugar industry assistance for the laboratories, the College of Hawaii has determined to institute an emergency chemistry course, separate from its ordinary course and covering only six weeks. Preference in admission to the course will be given to those recommended by plantation managers, the knowing whom they may best use in such capacities. This course will be conducted by Prof. Herbert S. Walker, eminently fitted for the work in hand, and will commence September 3. Usual entrance requirements are waived in this instance.

UTILIZING MOLASSES

Steps are being taken to turn to account the vast quantity of molasses annually run to waste in Queensland. Operations are in progress for the erection of a plant on the Brisbane River for the manufacture from molasses of an acetate of lime which will ultimately be utilized for certain purposes; it may eventually involve the use of a very large quantity of molasses, which is to be collected in storage tanks at the port of shipment in the north and transported in tank steamers to Brisbane. The enterprise is understood to be in the hands of the Commonwealth authorities—North Queensland Register.

GRIND ENDED

Pioneer Plantation on Maui has completed its grind with 29,380 tons 800 above the estimate. Because of last year's drought, production was 4200 tons less.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CAUSES MORE WORK

American Factors Trustees Are Working Out Satisfactory Allotment Plans

No plans, other than tentative have been worked out by the trustees of American Factors, Limited, for the allotment of the certificates of the company, owing to the heavy oversubscription of stock which runs more than twenty percent. Various plans have been proposed and the trustees expect to have one worked out that will satisfy during the present week. It is not yet certain how much of the American Factors, Limited, will be paid in Liberty Bonds. While the blank provided a space for a statement on this point there were many applications in which the blank was not filled in and there is a possibility that in some instances this was inadvertent and that when time for payment comes some further Liberty Bonds than those mentioned in applications will be offered. As eighty percent may be paid in bonds there is still ample room for such inadvertent omissions. Indications now are that the American Factors will be running along smoothly and in full operation with the first of the month and the expectation further is that October will see the payment of its first dividend.

GIVES UP TITLE AND FORTUNE TO ESCAPE FROM PRUSSIANISM

Asserting that he had given up a title and a fortune to escape from Prussianism and that he did not want to be known throughout the rest of his life as of German descent, Freiherr von Wangenstein, known in Honolulu as Franz Schmidt, has requested the authority of Governor McCarthy to be known henceforth as Frank Smith.

Schmidt has been in Honolulu for the past two years and a half and until recently was the manager of the White Seal Laundry.

In petitioning to have his name changed to Smith, he made an affidavit that he escaped from Germany twenty-two years ago after he deserted from the army in which he held a commission as a lieutenant. He said he fled from Germany because of wounding another lieutenant in a duel. His antagonist, who rose to the grade of a major general, was killed in the present war.

Schmidt will be granted his request by the Governor, it is said, after he supplies letters from reputable Honolulu residents testifying he is what he says he is. He says he is a native of Alsace.

Schmidt has been known by that name since he assumed it, and the papers of a Alsace trader by which he was able to escape over the border into Switzerland, following his duel with the other German lieutenant.

W.S.S.

The Arizona and American will make a wonderful fighting combination, in the opinion of E. J. Hancock, a Melbourne business man, now visiting in Honolulu, who will soon be on his way home.